

Blass. He has been an inspiration to the lives of his fellow countrymen, as well as for our entire South Florida community.

In honor of his 15th anniversary as president of the American Peruvian Action Committee, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Cesar "Eddy" Blass.

AMERICANS DESERVE TO HAVE ISSUES THEY CARE ABOUT MOST ADDRESSED

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because this Republican Congress is failing American families.

The gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) originally promised that the Republican-controlled Congress would finish work on the budget nearly 2 months ago. Yet, they continue to sit here and waste our time with political stunts.

The American people have become used to a Republican Congress that is no longer just a "do nothing" Congress, but a "do the wrong thing" Congress.

Americans deserve a budget; they deserve to have the issues they care about most addressed. There is positive legislation that our constituents are asking us to bring to the House floor. We could be saving Social Security, building new schools, reducing classroom size. We could be increasing the minimum wage so that workers can provide for their families. We could be ensuring patients' rights and putting the care back into health care. Instead, we are mired down in partisan rhetoric and debate.

Mr. Speaker, the people of southeast Texas and I have been waiting for over 5 weeks for the Republicans to finish the budget, but we cannot wait much longer. They need to quit stalling and together let us get the people's business done.

EDUCATION SPENDING BILL

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, there are few issues in America more important than education. And in fact, the White House and Congress really do not disagree on the amount of money that we ought to spend on schools in this year's appropriations process. But what is holding up the debate is the question of how to spend those dollars.

The Republican party clearly believes that governors and State legislators, school board members, and principals and superintendents ought to be free to spend the dollars that we are appropriating as they see fit. But the President has a different idea. He wants to tell States specifically how they must spend the money.

In some States, hiring more teachers makes sense. In other States, it might not. But here is the President's answer to the question put by a reporter: "Mr. President, on the issue of funding for teachers, sir, you resent it when Congress tells you to spend money in ways which you do not deem appropriate. Why should a state governor who would like to spend that money differently feel any differently?"

The President's answer: "Well, because it's not their money."

When you have an attitude like that in Washington that the taxpayers' money belongs to Washington and not the taxpayers, it explains how the White House is willing to squander the American tax dollars in a way that neglects children and abandons our schools.

SAY YES TO AGENDA FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, in response to the previous speaker, I sat yesterday with the superintendent of schools in the city of Portland and members of the school committee in Portland, Maine; and they do not want block grants. They want class size reduction above all else.

Mr. Speaker, this session is winding down and the Republican Congress has a sorry record. We have not done very much this session, and much of what we have done has been done wrong.

Many Democrats worked hard to pass campaign finance reform with the help of some Republicans here, but the leadership has killed it. Democrats tried to make our schools safer by passing modest gun safety laws, but Republicans said no. Democrats have worked to make health care safer for patients by passing a patients' bill of rights, but Republicans said no.

Democrats in this administration tried to make the world safer by ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Republicans said no. Democrats have been working hard to get prescription drug legislation passed, but Republicans in the Committee on Ways and Means the other day said no.

Next year let us say yes to an agenda for American families. Let us say yes and get this agenda enacted.

AMERICAN FAMILIES DESERVE BETTER

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority has failed to act on the basic issues facing hard-working Americans. The Republican leadership started the year by trying to spend the surplus on an \$800 billion tax break for the wealthiest Americans, and they did

this despite the fact that we need to strengthen and protect Social Security and Medicare. Their current plan fails to extend the life of Social Security by even one day. It neglects the need for a Medicare prescription drug benefit and hurts every American family in some way.

The Republican leadership stifles common sense gun safety measures like child safety locks and background checks at gun shows, despite the fact that 13 children are killed every single day by guns. The Republican leadership is siding with the gun lobby and letting gaping loopholes remain open.

This Congress should not leave town before its work is done.

The Republican leadership should listen to the public, enact sensible gun safety laws, strengthen Social Security and Medicare, pass a prescription drug benefit bill and a minimum wage bill. Our families deserve better.

RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard of the three Rs when it comes to education. Let me add a fourth R: responsibility, because responsibility is the key. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States, responding to the press when it comes to judicious spending of educational dollars said, and I quote, "Well, because it is not their money."

Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle ought to understand both the arithmetic and the responsibility. My liberal friends want the money to be controlled by the educational bureaucrats in Washington. We in the common sense, conservative majority say the money should be spent at home, first and foremost by teachers in the classrooms, by superintendents in the districts, and yes, by governors in the States, along with the respective superintendents of public education. Because while education is a national priority, it ultimately is a local concern.

Mr. Speaker, the President and my liberal friends should join with us to make sure that local control and responsibility is paramount.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALLOW MICROSOFT TO CONTINUE TO INNOVATE FOR AMERICANS

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I am calling on the United States Justice Department to put away any dream of breaking up Microsoft. Microsoft and its employees should not be punished for being one of the most creative, dynamic teams of people in American economic history.